



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Handwritten signatures and initials, including "AT 01/10/03".*

Group Art Unit 3724  
Examiner

EDWIN E. SUER, et al.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Serial No. 10/047,586

Filed October 29, 2001

For: HOT DOG SLICER/

December 26, 2002

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In The Claims:

**RECEIVED**  
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Please amend the claims to read as follows:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R9700

1. (amended) A food utensil comprising:
- a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior,  
an open first end and a second end; and
- a plurality of blades extending across said interior in a plane perpendicular  
to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.
2. (amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of  
grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding  
plurality of points approaching the second end and a blade rack slidably  
engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades  
wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one  
of said plurality of grooves.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 26, 2002.

Name of person mailing: C. Gail Boes

Signature: C. Gail Boes

Date

12-26-02